



## INVESTIGATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

All or some of the information you provide may become available to the public.

OMB # (1024-0236) Exp. Date (11/30/2010) Form No. (10-226)
--

<b>Reporting Year:</b> 2008	<b>Park:</b> Big Thicket N PRES	<b>Select the type of permit this report addresses:</b> Scientific Study	
<b>Name of principal investigator or responsible official:</b> Michael Barger		<b>Office Phone:</b> 402-872-2326	
<b>Mailing address:</b> 600 Hoyt Street; PO Box 10  Department of Natural Science  Peru State College Peru, NE 68421-0010 U.S.A.		<b>Office FAX</b>  <b>Office Email</b> mbarger@oakmail.peru.edu	
<b>Additional investigators or key field assistants (first name, last name, office phone, office email)</b>			
<b>Name:</b> Scott D Snyder		<b>Phone:</b> 402-554-2469	<b>Email:</b> sdsnyder@mail.unomaha.edu
<b>Project Title (maximum 300 characters):</b> Biodiversity Survey and Inventory of Aquatic Ectotherms and their Parasites in the Big Thicket: An ATBI Proposal to Establish a Taxonomic Working Group (TWIG) and for Preliminary Sampling			
<b>Park-assigned Study or Activity #:</b> BITH-00017	<b>Park-assigned Permit #:</b> BITH-2008-SCI-0006	<b>Permit Start Date:</b> Mar 15, 2008	<b>Permit Expiration Date:</b> Dec 31, 2008
<b>Scientific Study Starting Date:</b> Mar 15, 2007		<b>Estimated Scientific Study Ending Date:</b> Dec 31, 2007	
<b>For either a Scientific Study or a Science Education Activity, the status is:</b>  Continuing		<b>For a Scientific Study that is completed, please check each of the following that applies:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> A final report has been provided to the park or will be provided to the park within the next two years  <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of field notes, data files, photos, or other study records, as agreed, have been provided to the park  <input type="checkbox"/> All collected and retained specimens have been cataloged into the NPS catalog system and NPS has processed loan agreements as needed	
<b>Activity Type:</b> Inventory			
<b>Subject/Discipline:</b> Inventory Natural Resources			

<b>Purpose of Scientific Study or Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):</b> The purpose of the study is to collect survey and inventory information on the parasites of aquatic ectotherms (fishes, amphibians, turtles) in the Big Thicket. These data are being collected as part of the All Taxon Biodiversity Inventory in the Big Thicket supported by the Big Thicket Association.
<b>Findings and status of Scientific Study or accomplishments of Science Education Activity during the reporting year (maximum 4000 characters):</b> One sampling trip was made in July of 2009. One hundred forty five fishes representing 15 species were collected from five localities: Harmon Creek, Sandy Creek, Turkey Creek, Collins Pond, and Menard Creek. All fish were necropsied for the recovery of parasites.

Parasites were killed, fixed, preserved, and transported back to my laboratory at Peru State College, Peru, Nebraska, where identification of parasites is ongoing. At this date, approximately 50% of the specimens from the 2008 collections have been identified; processing of specimens will continue through the winter and spring of 2009. The estimated number of parasite species recovered at this point is 40, which is consistent with preliminary work conducted in 2007. The project is now approximately 5% completed; most of the fish, amphibian, and turtle species remain to be examined for parasites, and future work will require sampling in other areas and habitats within the Big Thicket National Preserve.

**For Scientific Studies (not Science Education Activities), were any specimens collected and removed from the park but not destroyed during analysis?**

No

**Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by NPS (enter dollar amount):**

\$0

**Funding specifically used in this park this reporting year that was provided by all other sources (enter dollar amount):**

\$1000

**List any other U.S. Government Agencies supporting this study or activity and the funding each provided this reporting year:**

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.625 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the forms. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Dr. John G. Dennis, Natural Resources (3127 MIB), National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240.